

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 and 14 without prejudice and amend the remaining claims as indicated below by the markings.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A printing device ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~ to transfer ink onto a recording medium, comprising:

a carrier;

a plurality of print elements arranged on said carrier in at least one linear row, each print element having two high-voltage electrodes; and

a high-voltage supply connected to said high-voltage electrodes to selectively supply a high voltage to at least one print element so that a spark discharge ensues whose shock impulse transfers ink from said carrier onto the recording medium;

said two high-voltage electrodes of each print element ~~including~~ include first electrodes of a first polarity and second electrodes of a second polarity, said first electrodes of said first polarity of a row of said print elements being electrically connected with one another; and

said second electrodes being selectively triggered with high voltage.

3.(Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 2 [[1]], wherein said two high-voltage electrodes of said print elements includes a first electrode shaped as a ring electrode.

4. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 2 [[1]], wherein said two high-voltage electrodes of said print elements includes a first electrode shaped as a circular area.

5. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 2 [[1]], wherein said carrier defines at least one cup-like pit adapted to accept ink for each of said print elements.

6.(Original) A printing device according to claim 5, wherein said at least one cup-like pit has a diameter in the range of 10 to 50 μm .

7.(Original) A printing device according to claim 5, wherein said at least one cup-like pit has a depth of 0.1 to 50 μm .

8. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 2 [[1]], wherein said at least one linear row of print elements includes a plurality of rows of print elements arranged in a matrix.

9. (Currently Amended) A printing device ~~according to claim 8, wherein~~ to transfer ink onto a recording medium, comprising:

a carrier;

a plurality of print elements arranged on said carrier in at least one linear row, each print element having two high-voltage electrodes;

a high-voltage supply connected to said high-voltage electrodes to selectively supply a high voltage to at least one print element so that a spark discharge ensues whose shock impulse transfers ink from said carrier onto the recording medium;

said at least one linear row of print elements including a plurality of rows of print elements arranged in a matrix;

said two high-voltage electrodes of each print element including ~~include~~ first electrodes of a first polarity and second electrodes of a second polarity, said first electrodes of said first polarity of a row of said print elements of said matrix being electrically connected with one another;

said second electrodes of said print elements of columns of said matrix being electrically connected with one another; and
given application of a high voltage at a selected row and a selected column of said matrix, a spark discharge is released at a print element located at a cross-over of said selected row and said selected column.

10. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 9 [[8]], wherein separation of said print elements from one another in said matrix is determined dependent on a desired print resolution.

11. (Currently Amended) A printing device ~~according to claim 8, wherein~~ to transfer ink onto a recording medium, comprising:
a carrier;
a plurality of print elements arranged on said carrier in at least one linear row, each print element having two high-voltage electrodes;
a high-voltage supply connected to said high-voltage electrodes to selectively supply a high voltage to at least one print element so that a spark discharge ensues whose shock impulse transfers ink from said carrier onto the recording medium;
said at least one linear row of print elements including a plurality of rows of print elements arranged in a matrix;
said print elements of said matrix ~~being~~ are spaced from one another at intervals of approximately 42.33 μm .

12. (Currently Amended) A printing device ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~ to transfer ink onto a recording medium, comprising:
a carrier;
a plurality of print elements arranged on said carrier in at least one linear row, each print element having two high-voltage electrodes; and

a high-voltage supply connected to said high-voltage electrodes to selectively supply a high voltage to at least one print element so that a spark discharge ensues whose shock impulse transfers ink from said carrier onto the recording medium;
said carrier being is a flat plate.

13. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 2 [[1]], wherein said carrier is a print roller.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19 [[14]], further comprising the step of:
providing at least one cup-like pit in said carrier per print element in which ink can be accepted.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein said cup-like pit has a diameter in a range of 10 to 50 μm .

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein said cup-like pit has a depth in a range of 0.1 to 50 μm .

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19 [[14]], wherein said plurality of print elements are disposed in a plurality of rows arranged in a matrix.

19. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:~~ to transfer ink onto a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of print elements on a carrier in at least one linear row;
providing each print element with two high-voltage electrodes;
applying ink to a surface of said carrier; and
selectively supplying high voltage to at least one of said print elements so that a spark
discharge is released whose shock impulse transfers ink from said carrier onto the
recording medium;
said plurality of print elements being disposed in a plurality of rows arranged in a matrix;
electrically connecting said high-voltage electrodes of a first polarity in said print elements of
a row with one another;
electrically connecting said high-voltage electrodes of a second polarity in said print elements
of a column with one another; and
applying a high voltage at a selected row and at a selected column so that a spark discharge is
released at a print element located at a cross-over of said selected row and said
selected column.

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 18, wherein~~ to transfer ink
onto a recording medium, comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of print elements on a carrier in at least one linear row;
providing each print element with two high-voltage electrodes;
applying ink to a surface of said carrier; and
selectively supplying high voltage to at least one of said print elements so that a spark
discharge is released whose shock impulse transfers ink from said carrier onto the
recording medium;
said plurality of print elements being disposed in a plurality of rows arranged in a matrix;
said print elements of said matrix ~~being~~ are spaced from one another at intervals of
approximately 42.3 μm .

21.(Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 14, wherein~~ to transfer ink onto a recording medium, comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of print elements on a carrier in at least one linear row;
providing each print element with two high-voltage electrodes;
applying ink to a surface of said carrier; and
selectively supplying high voltage to at least one of said print elements so that a spark
discharge is released whose shock impulse transfers ink from said carrier onto the
recording medium.
said carrier being is a flat plate.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19 ~~[[14]]~~, wherein said carrier is a print roller.

23. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 14, further comprising the step~~
~~of:~~ to transfer ink onto a recording medium, comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of print elements on a carrier in at least one linear row;
providing each print element with two high-voltage electrodes;
applying ink to a surface of said carrier;
selectively supplying high voltage to at least one of said print elements so that a spark
discharge is released whose shock impulse transfers ink from said carrier onto the
recording medium; and
inking a surface of said carrier by color values.

24.(Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19 ~~[[14]]~~, further comprising the step of:
transferring the ink into an intermediate carrier before transferring the ink from the
intermediate carrier onto the recording medium.